

Cardiovascular Disease

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE DEATHS

In Brief: CVD Deaths

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) includes the first and fourth leading causes of death in North Carolina — heart disease and stroke — and is also a major cause of premature death and years of potential life lost.
- CVD causes 31 percent of all deaths in North Carolina.
- One in five CVD deaths among North Carolinians occurs among those younger than 65.
- If all forms of major CVD were eliminated, life expectancy in the United States would rise by nearly seven years.
- Significant racial and geographic disparities in CVD mortality exist in North Carolina.

Nationwide

- If all forms of major cardiovascular disease (CVD) were eliminated, life expectancy in the United States would rise by nearly seven years.¹
- Each day, CVD kills nearly 2,300 Americans. That is an average of one death due to CVD every 38 seconds.²

Statewide

- Cardiovascular disease includes the first and fourth leading causes of death in North Carolina, heart disease and stroke (Figure 1.1).
- In 2008, cardiovascular disease caused 23,678 deaths among North Carolinians, 31 percent of all deaths in that year (Figure 1.1).
- North Carolina's 2006 age-adjusted total CVD death rate is the 19th highest among the 50 states and Washington, D.C. (ICD-10 codes: I00-I99;Q20-Q28).³
- North Carolina's 2006 age-adjusted cardiovascular disease death rate of 267.0 per 100,000 was slightly higher than the national rate of 261.2 per 100,000 (Figure 1.2 and Table 1.1).
- Cardiovascular disease includes the second and sixth leading causes of total years of potential life lost in North Carolina, heart disease and stroke.⁴